

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i></p>	<p>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p>Place – Safe and Clean</p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Consultation on the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards commenced on the 12th June for a period of six weeks (until 24th July 2014).</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 3, Sections 116-121 and Schedule 9 and 10) and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 set out the power and duties considered in this report.</p> <p>It is a statutory requirement to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans and for this Council to adopt them, if supported by a referendum.</p> <p>Once 'made', neighbourhood plans will carry full statutory weight as part of the development plan for the area, and due regard must be had to them when making decisions on planning applications.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>The Council will be subject to additional costs to cover the statutory requirements.</p> <p>Direct costs will be incurred as the Council is required to</p>

	<p>hold an independent examination of the proposed neighbourhood plan and a referendum on the plan. Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the costs of this examination and referendum are required to be met by the Council. The more applications the Council receives to undertake neighbourhood planning, the greater the implications of these costs to the Council.</p> <p>Funding from DCLG is available to reflect costs incurred. This currently amounts to £30,000 per neighbourhood plan (non ring-fenced) to the local authority to cover the cost of supporting the process, paying for the examination and referendum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5,000 upon designation of a Neighbourhood Area, • £5,000 upon publication of the plan prior to examination; and • £20,000 upon successful completion of the examination. <p>DCLG has also made up to £7,000 directly available to communities preparing neighbourhood plans via ‘Locality’ (the organisation which is delivering this funding – further information is available at - http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/).</p>
Human Resource:	<p>The Localism Act 2011 places a duty to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans on local authorities through officer advice and guidance, making evidence available and organising/paying for the examination and referendum. Further consideration therefore needs to be given to adequately and appropriately resourcing this area of work in the future, to ensure that staff resources are not deflected from producing the District Plan.</p>
Risk Management:	<p>If local communities apply to the Council to undertake neighbourhood planning this will require the Council to respond in a timely manner. Being clear in the process will enable the Council to determine how it will respond to such requests and ensure that the resources are in place to deliver such support as it considers appropriate. Failure to do so risks staff and financial resources being diverted from other projects and dissatisfaction amongst local communities.</p>

<p>Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:</p>	<p>The link between planning and health has been long established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The localism agenda means that communities and organisations have greater statutory support to take positive action to improve their health and wellbeing, e.g. by identifying new facilities or improving the quality of the design of new buildings.</p>
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